

Message Text

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63

ACTION BNDE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 MED-03 SS-15 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02

H-02 EB-11 ABF-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 /155 W

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R 291915 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6200

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 3783

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF SEIZED OPIUM FOR MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 91823

1. SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF SEIZED OPIUM (REFTEL)
WAS DISCUSSED AT EMBASSY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD MAY 25. CONSENSUS WAS THAT NEGATIVE CONSIDERATIONS
OUTWEIGHED CONCEIVABLE GAINS WITHIN MEXICAN CONTEXT.
ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY PREFERS NOT TO MAKE DIRECT APPROACH
TO GOM AT THIS TIME.

2. REASONS FOR OUR POSITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) SINCE MEXICO HAS NEVER BEEN A LEGAL SOURCE
OF OPIUM, IT WOULD NOT COME UNDER ANY OF CITED PRO VISIONS
OF ARTICLE 24 OF SINGLE CONVENTION.
FURTHERMORE, GOM HAS BEEN ZEALOUS IN SUSTAINING ITS
ACROSS- THE- BOARD LEGAL SANCTIONS AGAINST OPIUM AND OTHER
PROSCRIBED SUBSTANCES. BASED ON AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION
BETWEEN BNDD AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS DURING JANUARY 1973
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TRIPARTITE TALKS IN CANADA, GOM EVIDENTLY FEELS THAT ANY PROGRAM TO CHANNEL ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES INTO LEGAL USES WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR POLICY, AND THEREFORE UNWELCOME.

B) QUANTITIES OF OPIUM SEIZED IN MEXICO HAVE BEEN MINIMAL. BASED ON FIGURES PUBLISHED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL' S OFFICE (ANNUAL REPORTS), 1970-71 SEIZURE AMOUNTED TO 8.611 KGMS; 1971-72 FIGURES WERE 40.200 KGMS. THUS, EVEN ASSUMING PURCHASE OF ALL QUANTITIES SEIZED, THIS WOULD NOT MAKE MUCH OF A DENT ON APPARENT SHORTFALL BEING EXPERIENCED BY PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES.

C) WHILE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THAT PURCHASE OF SEIZED OPIUM MIGHT SERVE AS AN INCENTIVE TO INCREASED SEIZURES, WE BELIEVE THIS RELATIVE ADVANTAGE WOULD BE OVERSHADOWED BY MORE DISTURBING, REAL POSSIBILITY, THAT SUCH PURCHASES MIGHT STIMULATE CORRUPT PRACTICES OR " PREEMPTIVE BUYS."

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Subject: ACQUISITION OF SEIZED OPIUM FOR MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS
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To: BNDE
GENEVA
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